



Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture

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HIGHLIGHTS

2008 MT Sheep & Lamb Losses
2008 All Wheat County Estimates
Ag Prices Received
2008 Honey Production
2008 Chicken Inventory & Annual
Egg Production
January 2009 U.S. Egg Production

Montana Sheep and Lamb Loss 2008

Montana sheep and lamb producers lost 50,000 animals to weather, predators, disease and other causes during 2008, representing a total value of \$3.7 million. The total number of sheep and lambs lost remained unchanged from last year, but the total value of inventory lost was 3 percent less than a year ago. The January 1, 2008 inventory was 7 percent less than the previous year. Sheep and lamb deaths amounted to 9.5 percent of the January 1

inventory and lambs born, up slightly from last year.

The number of sheep and lambs lost to all predators totaled 15,200 head, down 1,800 head from last year. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 12,200 head, down 12 percent from last year. The number of sheep lost to all predators totaled 3,000, down 100 head from a year ago. Predators caused an estimated \$1.1 million in losses in 2008, down 12 percent from the previous year. Losses due to predators amounted to 2.9 percent of the January 1 inventory and lambs born and 30 percent of all sheep and lamb deaths. Coyotes remained the largest predator for both sheep and lambs. Coyotes accounted for 67 percent of the predator caused losses and 20 percent of all death losses in the state. The value of losses attributed to coyotes was \$0.7 million.

The total value of non-predatory losses was \$2.3 million in 2008, compared with \$2.2 million in 2007. Non-predatory losses accounted for 58 percent of all losses. The largest non-predatory cause of losses was weather at 11,500 head. Sheep lost to non-predatory factors totaled 9,600 head, 9 percent higher than 2007. Non-predatory lamb losses came in at 19,600 head, 900 head higher than a year ago.

Producers reported slightly more sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes this past year. The number of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes increased 2 percent from last year. Lambs lost to unknown causes totaled 4,200 head, compared with 3,400 head last year. Unknown causes claimed 1,400 sheep, compared with 2,100 head last year. The value of sheep and lambs lost to unknown causes decreased slightly to \$0.4 million.

Sheep & Lambs: Death Losses by Cause, Montana 2007-2008

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000)	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Predators												
Bear	400	300	48.0	33.9	300	500	18.2	30.0	700	800	66.2	63.9
Bobcat	--	--	--	--	--	100	--	6.0	--	100	--	6.0
Coyote	1,900	1,900	228.0	214.7	9,800	8,300	593.9	498.0	11,700	10,200	821.9	712.7
Dog	300	200	36.0	22.6	400	400	24.2	24.0	700	600	60.2	46.6
Eagle	--	--	--	--	800	900	48.5	54.0	800	900	48.5	54.0
Fox	--	--	--	--	1,100	1,300	66.7	78.0	1,100	1,300	66.7	78.0
Mountain Lion	100	200	12.0	22.6	300	200	18.2	12.0	400	400	30.2	34.6
Wolf	200	200	24.0	22.6	400	300	24.2	18.0	600	500	48.2	40.6
Other Animals	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Unknown Predators	200	200	24.0	22.6	800	200	48.5	12.0	1,000	400	72.5	34.6
Total Predators	3,100	3,000	372.0	339.0	13,900	12,200	842.4	732.0	17,000	15,200	1,214.4	1,071.0
Non-Predators												
Total Diseases	2,800	1,700	336.0	192.1	5,000	3,700	303.0	222.0	7,800	5,400	639.0	414.1
Lambing Complications	1,100	900	132.0	101.7	5,600	4,800	339.4	288.0	6,700	5,700	471.4	389.7
Old Age	3,000	3,300	360.0	372.9	--	--	--	--	3,000	3,300	360.0	372.9
On Back	600	400	72.0	45.2	--	100	--	6.0	600	500	72.0	51.2
Poison	700	400	84.0	45.2	500	400	30.3	24.0	1,200	800	114.3	69.2
Theft	--	--	--	--	100	400	6.1	24.0	100	400	6.1	24.0
Weather Conditions	400	2,500	48.0	282.5	6,500	9,000	393.9	540.0	6,900	11,500	441.9	822.5
Other	200	400	24.0	45.2	1,000	1,200	60.6	72.0	1,200	1,600	84.6	117.2
Total Non-Predators	8,800	9,600	1,056.0	1,084.8	18,700	19,600	1,133.3	1,176.0	27,500	29,200	2,189.3	2,260.8
Unknown Causes	2,100	1,400	252.0	158.2	3,400	4,200	206.0	252.0	5,500	5,600	458.0	410.2
Total Loss	14,000	14,000	1,680.0	1,582.0	36,000	36,000	2,181.7	2,160.0	50,000	50,000	3,861.7	3,742.0

1/ Using average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. -- Denotes less than 100 head.

All Wheat Acreage, Yield, and Production by Counties and Districts, 2008

County and District	ALL						IRRIGATED			
	Planted	Net Planted 1/	Harvested	Yield	Production		Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Bushels	Bushels	Rank	Acres	Acres	Bushels	Bushels
Deer Lodge	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flathead	19,300	19,300	19,300	56.5	1,095,000	28	8,500	8,500	65.0	551,000
Granite	1,200	1,200	1,200	70.0	84,000	50	1,200	1,200	70.0	84,000
Lake	15,100	15,100	14,800	60.5	895,000	30	--	--	--	--
Lincoln	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mineral	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Missoula	2,500	2,500	2,500	57.0	142,500	48	--	--	--	--
Powell	600	600	600	47.5	28,500	53	--	--	--	--
Ravalli	3,200	3,200	3,100	34.0	105,500	49	--	--	--	--
Sanders	1,700	1,700	1,700	30.5	51,500	51	--	--	--	--
Other	1,500	1,500	1,500	38.5	58,000	--	14,400	14,100	63.5	898,000
NORTHWEST	45,100	45,100	44,700	55.0	2,460,000	--	24,100	23,800	64.5	1,533,000
Blaine	198,900	195,000	190,300	29.0	5,524,000	12	10,000	8,500	61.5	522,000
Chouteau	533,500	522,500	511,200	45.0	22,923,000	1	3,500	3,300	79.0	260,000
Glacier	133,500	132,400	131,300	32.0	4,187,000	16	--	--	--	--
Hill	442,400	434,400	427,200	38.0	16,336,000	2	1,400	1,300	69.0	90,000
Liberty	270,200	261,200	256,100	32.5	8,274,000	3	--	--	--	--
Phillips	142,100	139,000	128,900	27.0	3,498,000	17	5,100	4,000	52.0	207,000
Pondera	196,600	191,600	186,800	41.5	7,781,000	4	18,500	17,800	75.5	1,347,000
Teton	176,600	174,600	169,500	45.5	7,712,000	5	19,700	19,600	70.5	1,380,000
Toole	243,700	242,700	238,600	27.0	6,430,000	8	700	700	65.5	46,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	7,600	7,400	56.0	416,000
N. CENTRAL	2,337,500	2,293,400	2,239,900	37.0	82,665,000	--	66,500	62,600	68.0	4,268,000
Daniels	289,000	286,900	283,000	17.0	4,794,000	13	600	600	40.0	24,000
Dawson	180,700	178,700	172,200	20.0	3,475,000	18	--	--	--	--
Garfield	109,300	108,300	107,300	29.5	3,179,000	20	--	--	--	--
McCone	240,800	238,500	222,200	20.5	4,597,000	14	3,500	3,400	45.0	153,000
Richland	182,500	181,000	161,200	16.5	2,631,000	22	15,900	15,300	58.0	886,000
Roosevelt	364,300	361,700	339,600	17.5	5,907,000	9	9,100	9,000	56.5	509,000
Sheridan	335,600	335,600	330,300	17.5	5,840,000	10	3,200	3,200	62.0	199,000
Valley	322,300	320,300	315,900	22.5	7,077,000	6	9,900	9,900	58.5	578,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	3,300	3,300	59.0	194,000
NORTHEAST	2,024,500	2,011,000	1,931,700	19.5	37,500,000	--	45,500	44,700	57.0	2,543,000
Broadwater	40,900	39,400	38,000	46.0	1,751,000	24	14,100	13,500	80.0	1,077,000
Cascade	148,200	145,000	142,000	39.5	5,574,000	11	6,700	6,500	68.5	445,000
Fergus	195,200	194,200	189,700	36.5	6,922,000	7	1,200	1,000	53.0	53,000
Golden Valley	31,300	31,300	30,300	27.5	835,000	32	1,500	1,500	52.5	79,000
Judith Basin	88,100	86,800	85,500	28.0	2,415,000	23	2,100	1,800	63.5	114,000
Lewis & Clark	21,800	19,200	19,100	36.0	683,000	38	--	--	--	--
Meagher	10,500	10,500	9,700	30.5	297,000	44	900	900	79.0	71,000
Musselshell	39,900	39,900	29,100	20.5	603,000	42	1,400	1,200	51.5	62,000
Petroleum	30,300	27,600	26,300	27.5	718,000	35	--	--	--	--
Wheatland	40,500	40,200	36,300	20.0	722,000	34	1,100	1,000	35.0	35,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	5,900	5,800	58.0	335,000
CENTRAL	646,700	634,100	606,000	34.0	20,520,000	--	34,900	33,200	68.5	2,271,000
Beaverhead	10,600	10,600	10,500	66.5	696,000	37	--	--	--	--
Gallatin	58,900	58,900	57,500	49.5	2,856,000	21	21,800	21,700	77.0	1,673,000
Jefferson	4,200	4,200	4,200	36.5	153,000	47	--	--	--	--
Madison	11,900	11,900	11,400	59.0	670,000	39	7,800	7,800	74.5	582,000
Silver Bow	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	8,800	8,800	79.5	698,000
SOUTHWEST	85,600	85,600	83,600	52.5	4,375,000	--	38,400	38,300	77.0	2,953,000
Big Horn	134,400	134,100	124,300	35.5	4,420,000	15	16,400	14,800	68.0	1,010,000
Carbon	11,000	11,000	10,800	26.5	285,000	45	--	--	--	--
Park	13,200	13,200	12,400	29.5	363,000	43	3,600	3,200	41.5	133,000
Stillwater	46,600	46,400	44,900	27.0	1,208,000	26	1,200	1,200	63.5	76,000
Sweetgrass	5,900	5,900	5,900	29.5	173,000	46	--	--	--	--
Treasure	10,600	10,600	10,500	57.5	604,000	41	--	--	--	--
Yellowstone	102,300	102,000	100,000	32.5	3,236,000	19	6,300	6,200	74.0	459,000
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	9,500	9,400	72.0	675,000
S. CENTRAL	324,000	323,200	308,800	33.5	10,289,000	--	37,000	34,800	67.5	2,353,000
Carter	42,700	42,600	40,400	28.5	1,150,000	27	--	--	--	--
Custer	32,600	31,400	27,200	27.0	737,000	33	3,400	3,400	58.0	197,000
Fallon	48,300	47,800	45,200	23.5	1,065,000	29	--	--	--	--
Powder River	22,600	22,600	21,300	32.5	697,000	36	--	--	--	--
Prairie	39,700	39,600	32,800	27.0	892,000	31	--	--	--	--
Rosebud	53,700	53,700	53,100	33.0	1,742,000	25	--	--	--	--
Wibaux	37,000	36,900	35,300	18.0	638,000	40	--	--	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	--	--	10,200	9,900	72.5	717,000
SOUTHEAST	276,600	274,600	255,300	27.0	6,921,000	--	13,600	13,300	68.5	914,000
MONTANA	5,740,000	5,667,000	5,470,000	30.0	164,730,000		260,000	250,700	67.0	16,835,000

1/ Planted acres less winter wheat replanted to spring wheat. -- Counties with no acres planted or counties that are combined into "other" counties/districts to avoid disclosure of individual information.

January 2009 Prices Received

January 2009 full-month crop prices were mostly higher when compared with December 2008. Montana's winter wheat price decreased \$0.23 to \$5.86 per bushel, but spring wheat rose \$0.29 to \$7.24 per bushel and durum wheat increased \$0.51 to \$10.20 per bushel. Feed barley prices rose \$0.31 from the previous month to \$2.94 per bushel and malt barley prices decreased \$0.23 to \$5.66 per bushel.

The mid-February price for alfalfa hay rose \$2.00 to \$111.00 per ton from January, but all other hay decreased \$1.00 to \$103.00 per ton. Mid-February grain prices were mostly higher than January with winter wheat at \$5.75 per bushel, durum wheat was \$7.87 per bushel, spring wheat was \$6.73 per bushel, feed barley was \$3.29 per bushel, and malt barley was \$6.87 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of January were mostly higher when compared with December 2008. Steer and heifer prices increased \$1.60 to \$93.70 per cwt, cows rose \$1.00 per cwt to

\$39.50, calves jumped \$9.80 to \$107.00 per cwt, but beef cattle decreased \$3.40 to \$74.20 per cwt. Sheep prices rose \$1.20 to \$28.20 per cwt and lambs increased \$6.00 to \$108.00 per cwt. All milk prices decreased \$0.70 from last month to \$17.50 per cwt. Livestock prices for mid February were mostly higher with steer and heifer prices at \$94.20 per cwt, cows were \$42.00 per cwt, beef cattle were \$78.50 per cwt, calves were \$109.00 per cwt, and all milk prices were \$15.70 per cwt.

Nationally, prices for January and changes from December were as follows: winter wheat was \$5.73 per bushel, up \$0.32, spring wheat was \$7.03 per bushel, up \$0.13, durum wheat was \$8.15 per bushel, down \$0.20, all barley was \$5.29 per bushel, down \$0.08, oats were \$2.74 per bushel, down \$0.36, steers and heifers were \$85.80 per cwt, up \$0.10, cows were \$42.30 per cwt, up \$2.10, calves were \$106.00 per cwt, up \$7.10, sheep were \$31.40 per cwt, down \$1.50, lambs were \$101.00 per cwt, unchanged, and all milk was \$13.30 per cwt, down \$2.30.

The U.S. mid-February winter wheat price was \$5.20 per bushel, spring wheat was \$6.51 per bushel, durum wheat was \$7.79 per bushel, malt barley was \$5.85 per bushel, feed barley was \$2.74 per bushel, and oats were \$2.27 per bushel. Steers and heifers were \$85.40 per cwt, cows were \$44.30 per cwt, calves were \$105.00 per cwt, and all milk was \$11.50 per cwt.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February, at 127 percent, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 12 points (8.6 percent) from January. The Crop Index is down 12 points (7.5 percent) and the Livestock Index decreased 5 points (4.4 percent). Producers received lower prices for lettuce, milk, corn, and eggs and higher prices for snap beans, strawberries, hogs, and turkeys. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of cattle, milk, broilers, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton.

United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	January 2008	February 2008	January 2009	February 2009
Prices Received	144	146	139	127
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	169	171	175	173
Ratio 2/	85	85	79	73
1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.				

Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	U N I T	Monthly Average				Change from Previous		Mid-Month Avg	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2009	Dec 2008	Jan 2008	15-Feb-09	15-Feb-09
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu	6.66	6.09	5.86	5.73	-0.23	-0.80	5.75	5.20
Durum Wheat	Bu	10.20	9.69	10.20	8.15	+0.51	0.0	7.87	7.79
Spring Wheat	Bu	8.07	6.95	7.24	7.03	+0.29	-0.83	6.73	6.51
All Wheat	Bu	7.29	6.53	6.57	6.21	+0.04	-0.72	6.21	5.73
All Barley	Bu	4.78	5.76	5.55	5.29	-0.21	+0.77	6.73	5.37
Feed Barley	Bu	4.96	2.63	2.94	2.96	+0.31	-2.02	3.29	2.74
Malt Barley	Bu	4.56	5.89	5.66	5.60	-0.23	+1.10	6.87	5.85
Oats	Bu	3.06	3.22	na	2.74	0.0	0.0	na	2.27
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	81.00	126.00	109.00	149.00	-17.00	+28.00	111.00	143.00
All Other Hay	Ton	71.00	120.00	104.00	110.00	-16.00	+33.00	103.00	107.00
All Hay Baled	Ton	77.00	125.00	108.00	136.00	-17.00	+31.00	110.00	132.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	98.80	92.10	93.70	85.80	+1.60	-5.10	94.20	85.40
Cows	Cwt	45.50	38.50	39.50	42.30	+1.00	-6.00	42.00	44.30
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	89.20	77.60	74.20	80.10	-3.40	-15.00	78.50	80.20
Calves	Cwt	116.00	97.20	107.00	106.00	+9.80	-9.00	109.00	105.00
Sheep	Cwt	28.70	27.00	28.20	31.40	+1.20	-0.50	na	na
Lambs	Cwt	103.00	102.00	108.00	101.00	+6.00	+5.00	na	na
All Milk	Cwt	20.70	18.20	17.50	13.30	-0.70	-3.20	15.70	11.50

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. na-not available.

2008 Montana and U.S. Honey Production

Montana honey producers with five or more colonies during 2008 produced 9.4 million pounds of honey, up 2 percent from 2007. The estimate of honey production includes production by colonies that were in the state for part of the year. There were 134,000 colonies producing honey in 2008, compared with 135,000 colonies in 2007. The honey yield per colony was 70 pounds, up 2 pounds from a year ago. December 15, 2008 honey stocks were 4.6 million pounds, up from 2.5 million pounds in 2007.

Prices for Montana honey increased \$0.38 from 2007 to \$1.37 per pound in 2008. The 2008 value of honey production was \$12.85 million dollars, up 41 percent from last year due to higher prices and production.

U.S. honey production in 2008 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 161 million pounds, up 8 percent from 2007. There were 2.30 million colonies producing honey in 2008, down 6 percent from 2007. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 15 percent from the 60.7 pounds in 2007. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced. Therefore, yields per colony may be understated, but total production would not be impacted. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 50.4 million pounds on December 15, 2008, down 4 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey prices in the United States increased to a record high during 2008 to 141.0 cents, up 31 percent from 107.7 cents in 2007. U.S. and State level prices reflect honey sold through retail, cooperatives, and private channels. Prices for each color class are derived by weighting the quantities sold for each marketing channel. Honey prices for 2008 were up from the previous year for

all color classes and marketing channels. Prices for the 2007 crop reflect honey sold in 2007 and 2008. Some 2007 crop honey was sold in 2008, which caused some revisions to the 2007 crop prices.

2008 Chicken Inventory and Egg Production, Montana and U.S.

There were 510,000 chickens (excluding broilers) on Montana farms and ranches on December 1, 2008, up 4 percent from a year ago. The December 1, 2008 inventory included 350,000 layers 20 weeks old and older, 159,000 pullets, and 1,000 other chickens. The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2008 was \$1.9 million, down 4 percent from last year. The average value per bird, at \$3.80, was down \$0.30 per bird from 2007.

Montana chickens produced 115 million eggs during the year ending November 30, 2008, up 7 percent from 2007. The state had an average of 355,000 layers in 2008, unchanged from a year ago. The average production per layer on hand was 324 eggs, up from 301 in 2007.

For the U.S., layer numbers during 2008 averaged 340 million, down 2 percent from the year earlier. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2008 was 266 eggs, down 1 percent from 2007.

U.S. egg production during the year ending November 30, 2008 totaled 90.2 billion eggs, down 1 percent from 2007. Table egg production, at 76.8 billion eggs, was down 1 percent from the previous year. Hatching egg production, at 13.3 billion eggs, was down 1 percent from 2007.

The total number of chickens on December 1, 2008 (excluding commercial broilers) in the United States was 446 million birds, down 3 percent from last year.

The total value of all chickens on December 1, 2008 was \$1.51 billion, up 11 percent from December 1, 2007. The average value increased from \$2.95 per

bird on December 1, 2007, to \$3.38 per bird on December 1, 2008.

January U.S. Egg Production Up Slightly

U.S. egg production totaled 7.67 billion during January 2009, up slightly from last year. Production included 6.59 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.00 billion were broiler-type and 72 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2009 averaged 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,249 eggs, up 1 percent from January 2008.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2009 totaled 341 million, down 1 percent from last year. The 341 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.4 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.03 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2009, averaged 72.1 eggs per 100 layers, up 2 percent from February 1, 2008.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January 2009 totaled 38.1 million, down 5 percent from January 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 35.2 million on February 1, 2009, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 240 thousand during January 2009, up 14 percent from January 2008.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during January 2009 totaled 778 million, down 5 percent from January 2008. Eggs in incubators totaled 624 million on February 1, 2009, down 8 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.73 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2009, down 4 percent from January 2008.

COMING IN THE NEXT REPORTER

Wheat & Barley Movement	Livestock Slaughter
2008 Livestock Slaughter	Egg Production
Potato Stocks	
Milk Production	
Cattle on Feed	

Steve Anderson, Director
John Hilton, Deputy Director
Wendy Bruski, Editor
10 W 15th Street, Helena, MT 59626
406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612
www.nass.usda.gov/mt/ nass-mt@nass.usda.gov